

Application No. 10/573,261
Amendment dated March 27, 2009
After Final Office Action of November 28, 2008

Docket No.: 1248-0862PUS1

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 10 to add an alternative (shown as dotted line) fixing bias voltage provided by bias device 105 to the heating roller 77.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 13 is present in this application. Claim 13 is an independent claim. Claims 1-12 and 14-22 have been canceled.

Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to for not showing every feature in the claims. In particular, the Office Action indicates that the claimed feature “the potential given member also functions as a heating member for heating the surface of the pressure member, of claim 13, must be shown in the drawings.

Accordingly, Fig. 10 has been amended to show second fixing bias voltage, provided by bias device 105, applied to the heating roller 77 (shown as the added dotted line, depicting the alternative application of the fixing bias voltage from bias device 105 to heating roller 77).

Support for this amendment is provided in the specification at page 68, second full paragraph, which states “the second fixing bias voltage may be applied to the heating roller 77, not the cleaning roller 102.”

Further according to the specification, Fig. 10 shows a fixing device 111 configured such that the bias device 105 applies the fixing bias voltage through the cleaning roller 102 to the surface of the pressure roller 32 and the bias device 94 applies the fixing bias voltage to the conductive core bar 61 of the fixing roller 31. (specification at page 67, lines 9-19). Thus, in the alternative case in which the second fixing bias voltage may be applied to the heating roller 77, the fixing bias voltage is applied through the heating roller 77 to the surface of the pressure roller 32.

In such case the heating roller 77 functions both to heat the surface of the pressure member 32 (i.e., a potential given member that functions as a heating member), as well as to apply the bias voltage to a surface of the pressure member (i.e., potential given member applying voltage to the surface of the pressure member).

Provided the amendment to Fig. 10, Applicants submit that every feature of claim 13 is shown in the drawings. Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn.

§ 102/103 Rejections

With regard to the various rejections of claims 1-12 and 14-22, Applicants have rewritten claim 13 into independent form and canceled claims 1-3, 7-10, 14-16, and 19-22. Subsequently, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 1-12 and 14-22 no longer apply.

§ 103(a) Rejection – Claim 23

Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,331,385 (Ohtsuka) in view of US 2002/0186981 (Takeuchi), and further in view of U.S. Application Publication 2004/0190929 (Yoshiki).

Claim 23 has been canceled. Thus, the amendment no longer applies.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert Downs Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments